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STATE OF MONTANA

Campaign Accounts and Banking Requirements – Guidance

- **What documentation will my bank require from me in establishing my campaign account?**
 - **It depends on the bank.** COPP has no specific requirements of banks in regards to campaign accounts, and each bank handles these accounts differently based on their own internal policy. Some may require nothing at all, while some will require a copy of your C-1/C-1A, or a copy of your SOS registration, etc.
- **Do I need to establish separate bank accounts for both the primary and the general election?**
 - **Yes.** Contribution limits now apply *per election*, which means that fundraising for the primary election and fundraising for the general election must be completely separate, and a candidate must therefore establish separate bank accounts for each.
- **Can I raise funds for my general election campaign while I'm still running in the primary?**
 - **Yes.** However, because these are separate elections, a candidate must properly report each contribution received as either a primary or general contribution, and the money raised for each election must be kept in separate campaign accounts (see above).
 - Say for example, I am running for State House. I can receive \$180 per election from an individual contributor. A friend wants to contribute \$360 to my campaign, \$180 for both primary and general. I must deposit \$180 into my primary account, \$180 into my general account, and report the contribution on my C-5 finance report as two separate contributions: one for primary, and one for general.
- **What happens to money left over in my primary election account if I don't advance to the general after the primary takes place on June 5, 2018?**
 - A candidate must dispose of any surplus campaign funds within 120 days of filing a closing campaign finance report. Within 135 days of filing a closing campaign finance report, Form C-118 must be filed, reporting the disposition of the surplus funds. A candidate **may not** contribute surplus funds to another campaign, including the candidate's own future campaign (for example, running for the same office during the next election), or use the funds for personal benefit. A candidate **may**:
 - Return funds to a contributor.
 - Donate funds to a non-profit.
- **Can I carry leftover money from my primary election forward to the general?**
 - **Yes.** Leftover funds may be moved from a candidate's primary account to the general account. This is reported as a primary expenditure under Schedule B, and a general fundraiser contribution under Schedule A.
- **I am a current elected official with an open constituent services account. Can I continue to use my constituent services account while campaigning?**
 - **No.** While a candidate has an open campaign account, he or she may not make use of an open constituent services account. Once a candidate has closed their campaign account, they may continue use of their constituent services account.
 - Please note: Even though a candidate may not use their constituent services account while a campaign account is open, the candidate must continue to file quarterly C-8 reports, due January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10.